

(School-wide / Childcare-wide General Notification Pertussis Letter Template)

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This note is to let you know that at least one person at (insert name of school / childcare center) has been identified as having pertussis and is being treated with antibiotics. Pertussis is an infection that affects the airways and is easily spread from person to person by coughing or sneezing. It causes a severe cough that can last for weeks or months, sometimes leading to coughing fits and/or vomiting. Anyone can get pertussis, but it can be very dangerous for infants and people with weakened immune systems or lung problems.

Letters have already been sent to the parents of children who the public health investigation identified as being at highest risk of becoming ill. If you have not received a previous letter your child is not at high risk of getting pertussis.

However, since pertussis has been confirmed at your child's school/childcare center public health recommends that you make sure your family's vaccinations are up-to-date. Basic protection against pertussis is provided by childhood pertussis vaccine, but this protection can decrease over time. Therefore, children (11 years of age and over) and all adults should get a booster shot for pertussis (Tdap) to boost their immunity. If you or a family member needs any pertussis vaccines, contact your healthcare provider or call [insert contact].

For more information on pertussis, please visit: (insert Webpage) or contact your local public health department.

Sincerely,

This letter should only be issued under the direction of a local public health department or the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) which is part of the Iowa Department of Public Health. Individual healthcare providers, school officials, and childcare providers are not authorized to independently issue this letter.

Reviewed: 8/23/2016